

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of cutting and machining a continuous strip of sheet metal, the method comprising:

- feeding out a continuous strip of sheet metal,
- cutting the continuous strip into finite lengths by making a wave shaped cut between each length and the immediately subsequent length thereby leaving the forward edge and the following edge of each sheet metal length wave shaped, wherein each of the forward edge and the following edge include a plurality of waves that are linearly arranged,

- while clamping ~~at least~~ the plurality of waves of the wave shaped forward and following edges of each sheet metal length, machining an exposed portion of each sheet metal length, wherein the plurality of waves are attached to each sheet metal length and are linearly arranged during the clamping and machining, and

- after machining, removing and rejecting the wave shaped forward and following edges from each sheet metal length.

2-7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the continuous strip is cut perpendicularly with respect to the feeding direction.

9. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 1, wherein the continuous strip is cut obliquely with respect to the feeding direction.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the wave shaped edge portions are sinusoidal.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
feeding a strip of sheet metal,
making wave shaped cuts in the strip of sheet metal to provide a length of sheet metal having a leading wave shaped edge and a trailing wave shaped edge,
while clamping the leading and the trailing wave shaped edges, deforming the length of sheet metal, wherein the wave shaped edges include a plurality of waves arranged linearly during the clamping and deforming, and
removing the leading and the trailing wave shaped edges from the deformed length of sheet metal.

14. (New) A method comprising:
cutting a continuous strip of sheet metal into a plurality of adjacent portions, wherein at least a first edge of each of the adjacent portions includes a plurality of waves in a linear arrangement;

clamping the plurality of waves of a first one of the adjacent portions while the plurality of waves are attached to the first one of the adjacent portions in the linear arrangement;

performing at least one machining step on the first one of the adjacent portions while the plurality of waves is clamped in the linear arrangement; and

separating the first edge and substantial portions of each of the plurality of waves from the first one of the adjacent portions.

15. (New) The method of step 14 further comprising determining a size of each of the plurality of waves based on optimizing the clamping.

16. (New) The method of step 14 wherein a height of each of the plurality of waves is less than or equal to 50 mm.

17. (New) The method of step 14 wherein a height of each of the plurality of waves is less than or equal to a distance between midpoints of adjacent ones of the plurality of waves.

18. (New) The method of step 14 wherein the clamping includes clamping a substantial portion of each of the plurality of waves.